

THE COMING OF URBAN V THE FIFTH

Viterbo. The Pope was arranging a league against the Visconti, and the Sienese ambassadors did not fail to come; The only political letter of Giovanni and Francesco that has come down to us, dated Viterbo, July 18, is the, "magnificent lords, the Twelve, governors of the city of Siena," on this subject. Francesco Bruni has told them that "his Holiness is amazed at their delay, and they implore them for their own good, lest they lose the Pope's favour, instantly to send the ambassadors."¹ On July 31, the very day of Giovanni's death, the league was signed in the Apostolic Palace, and, through the personal influence of the Marquis of Ferrara, the Republic of Siena joined it.² But, on August 20, the great Cardinal Albornoz died, followed to his grave by the admiration and reverence of friend and foe. At once his presence was missed in the papal counsels. An anti-French tumult broke out at Viterbo on September 5, and for three days Urban and his cardinals were besieged in the fortress by the insurgents. Florence and Siena, and even Rome itself, sent troops to his aid, but the Pope was glad at length to leave the turbulent capital of the Patrimony. Escorted by the Marquis of Ferrara with his men-at-arms, Urban left Viterbo on October 14. On October 16, he entered Rome in triumph, riding on a white mule, and was received with universal joy and acclamation. The Marquis of Ferrara, Count Amedeo of Savoy, the lords of the Malatesta family, and all the petty nobles of the Marches and Campagna accompanied him; the fierce soldier, Rodolfo Varano of Camerino, bore up the standard of the Church. Armed mercenaries, infantry and cavalry, surrounded the prelates and cardinals of the Curia. Such was the martial entry of the Vicar of the Prince of Peace; but the simple monk, who thus seemed the sovereign of the world, wept to see the desolation of the Sacred City, and threw himself in fervent prayer upon the ground at the tomb of the Apostle whose place he came to hold.

¹ *Lettere del B. Giovanni Colombini*, no.

² See G. Sanesi, *Siena nella Lega contra il Visconti*. In the *Bulkttmo Senese dl Storta Patna*, Anno I., 1894.